

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 20, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GALLINGER, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, submitted the following

ADVERSE REPORT:

[To accompany S. 1814.]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1814) to incorporate the Washington Homeopathic Medical College in the District of Columbia, make an adverse report thereon, in accordance with the recommendations of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia and the health officer.

OFFICE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, March 16, 1896.

DEAR SIR: The Commissioners recommend adverse action on Senate bill 1814, "to incorporate the Washington Homeopathic Medical College in the District of Columbia," and have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report in that connection made to them by the health officer of the District.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. ROSS,

President Board of Commissioners, District of Columbia.

Senator JAMES McMILLAN,

Chairman Committee on the District of Columbia, United States Senate.

FEBRUARY 19, 1896.

DEAR SIR: Referring to "A bill to incorporate the Washington Homeopathic Medical College" (S. 1814), I have the honor to recommend that it be returned with an adverse report, for the following reasons:

While purporting to be a homeopathic institution, there is not a representative homeopathic physician among its incorporators, nor does it receive recognition from the representative body of homeopathic practitioners in this District, the Washington Homeopathic Medical Society (chartered by act of Congress April 22, 1870).

An institution styled the Washington Homeopathic Medical College is at present in operation in this District, having been incorporated January 18, 1896, under the general incorporation laws. It is the successor of the National Homeopathic Medical College, which was incorporated in the same way. The reputation of the latter institution, among medical men not connected with it, was by no means good, and its character was at one time attacked by the Board of Dental Examiners of this District. The former has not been in operation long enough to establish a reputation of any kind, and its character can be judged by the fact that it is under the control of the same men who controlled its predecessor.

It is not entirely clear why it was deemed advisable to change the name of the institution if the operations of the one already in existence had not discredited the title by which it was known. The bill now before Congress seeks to establish, by special charter, the college already in operation under a charter obtained as stated above.

The apparent object of obtaining such special charter is to relieve the institution of the possible supervision of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia as to the sufficiency of its facilities for giving instruction in the branches which it is proposed to teach, which it is sought by pending legislation to impose on such institutions as are or may hereafter be incorporated under the general incorporation laws of this District. This supervision on the part of the Commissioners can not be made to operate to the detriment of any properly equipped institution, and is therefore not inimical to such an institution. The exemption sought from such supervision should therefore not be granted.

The most important reason, however, why this bill should be adversely reported appears in section 7. In this section the incorporators of the proposed college ask from the Government authority to confer the degrees of doctor of medicine, doctor of homeopathic medicine, master of homeopathics, and doctor of dental surgery. They do not propose, however, that the Government shall limit this authority by specifying the requirements to be exacted of candidates for any of these degrees, or by any supervision over the methods of instruction, the sufficiency of the equipment, etc. The proposed college could, under such a charter as is sought, confer, by authority of the United States Government, any of the degrees mentioned above on any person whom the faculty might designate, without any regard whatsoever as to the physical, mental, or moral fitness of such person. Such right manifestly should not be granted to any body of men, and certainly not to one a part of whom, at least, have already been associated in the issue of diplomas by a college of questionable reputation.

Respectfully,

W. C. WOODWARD, M. D.,
Health Officer District of Columbia.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

